Vol. IX. Numb. 12

# THE OBSERVATOR.

*Reflexions on the continu'd Inſolence of the high-flying Faction, and a ſeditious Pamphlet privately handed about, entitl'd,* The Anſwer of *Henry Sacheverell*, D. D. to the Articles of Impeachment exhibited againſt him by the Honourable Houſe of Commons, *&c. With a Proof of the Facts deny'd in that Anſwer.*

From Wednesday, February 22. to Saturday, February 25. 1709.

*Country-m.* HERE are more Advices for you, Maſter, of the ſeditious Practices of our High-flyers.

*Obſ.* The Subject is ſo ungrateful, *Roger*, that I am quite weary of it; nothing but Neceſſity could oblige me to rake in ſuch Dung-hills, which expoſe the Credit of our Iſland, that is now become as fruitful of Monſters, as *Africa*. Nothing could have preſerv'd us from the Imputation of being over-run with them, but the Proceedings of Parliament againſt one of the boldeſt and moſt virulent, but I cannot ſay one of the moſt dangerous of 'em; for they who ſculk behind the Curtain, and make uſe of ſuch wretched Tools, as the Monkey does of the Cat's Foot, do us abundance of more Miſchief. There's a vulgar Opinion of ſuch a Thing in the World, as white Powder, which does the ſame Execution without Noiſe or Smoak, as the common Gun-powder. Private Aſſaſſins are much more dangerous, than publick Enemies; but I hope, ſince the two Houſes of Parliament are now brought under a Neceſſity of taking the Matter into Conſideration, they will, like skilful Surgeons, ſearch to the Bottom of the Wound, and not ſuffer it to feſter or gangreen afreſh, to the Hazard of the whole Body politick.

*Country-m.* There are Advices, Maſter, from all Parts of the Kingdom, that the Contagion ſpreads: 'Tis become the Subject of all Converſation, a continual Bone of Contention; and the Teſt is, *for Sacheverell or not.* 'Tis ſurprizing to me, that any *Engliſh*-man ſhould ſo much forget his Name or Intereſt, as to ſpeak one Word in Defence of Tyranny and Slavery, which was always the Abhorrence of our Nation. Yet this Man, and ſuch as he, are follow'd like ſo many *Maſſanello's*. The Churches where they preach, are crowded, and *Sacheverell*'s Picture is now more hugg'd and admir'd, than any that we have in the late Editions of our Common-Prayer-Books. His Anſwer to the Articles of the Commons, have for ſome Time been printed, handed about by the Faction, and boaſted of as unanſwerable. This I take to be an Inſult of the higheſt Nature upon our Lords and Commons, who have the Criminal under Proſecution, and done on purpoſe to raiſe Mobs and Tumults. Pray, Maſter, give me your Opinion of it.

*Obſ.* I look upon it, *Roger*, to be ſuch a Compoſition of Folly, Ignorance, Malice, Obſtinacy, Pride, and Sedition, as never yet came from the Preſs. There's ſo much of Falſhood, Shuffling, Prevarication, Impudence, and Contradiction in it, that I believe no ſuch Defence was ever offer'd to ſo auguſt a Body as the Parliament of *Great Britain*; ſo that I make no Doubt but they will conſider and cenſure it accordingly. When a Clergyman is ſo far given up to a Spirit of Falſehood, as to deny a Charge by the Commons of *Great Britain*, made out from his Sermons that are in every Body's Hand, he forfeits all Title to that Compaſſion which generous Spirits are ever ready to give to penitent Criminals. This may juſtly provoke them to add other Articles or Impeachments, according as the Courſe of Parliament ſhall require, in order to puniſh his incorrigible Obſtinacy in another Manner, than at firſt they intended; but that muſt be left to their great Wiſdom.

*Country-m.* 'Tis inſolent to the higheſt Degree, Maſter, for the Doctor and his Faction thus to make their Appeals to the Mob, contrary to their own profeſs'd Principles, againſt the ſupream Powers of the Nation, while the Matter is lying before them, and not yet decided. It would be unſufferable in any Criminal to treat the Judges in *Weſtminſter-hall* at this Rate, in a Cauſe lying before them; but 'tis much more ſo to commit an Outrage upon the ſovereign Judges of the Nation, who are to determine in the laſt Reſort. This is ſuch an Affront as would not be put up by the meaneſt Tribunal in *Britain*: But the Faction is arriv'd now at that Height of Impudence, as to deſpiſe all Authority. The Doctor's Confidence is wrought ſo high, that by his Anſwer he bids Defiance to our fundamental Laws, which expreſly condemn his ſlaviſh Doctrine of Non-Reſiſtance, and ſets up the Opinion of his Univerſity againſt them; ſo that according to him, the Elemoſenaries or Alms People of the Nation, are now become the ſovereign Arbiters and Judges of what's Conſtitution, and the Authority of particular Divines muſt be ſet up againſt the ſolemn Deciſions of our Convocations in parallel Caſes during Queen *Elizabeth*'s Reign. The Homilies muſt be wreſted contrary to the Senſe of the Great Biſhop *Jewel*, and others, who compos'd them, to ſupport the Cauſe of Tyranny; and an Act of Parliament, which not only allows the Meetings of Proteſtant Diſſenters, but makes the diſturbing of 'em equally puniſhable with the diſturbing of Cathedrals and Pariſh-Churches, muſt be deny'd to be a Toleration eſtabliſh'd by Law, and run down as unreaſonable and unwarrantable in the Face of the Parliament of *Great Britain*. The Union-Act, which eſtabliſhes Presbytery, and makes it unalterable in *Scotland*, muſt be condemn'd in his two Penny Sermon, p. 18 and 19, as eſtabliſhing 'a Brood 'of Vipers, Schiſmaticks, Traytors, falſe Brethren, 'Underminers of the Church, execrable Villains, 'Men of helliſh Principles, which they openly pro'feſs and teach, clamorous, inſatiable, Church-de'vouring Malignants, Miſcreants, begot in Rebel'lion, born in Sedition, and nurs'd up in Faction. Certainly a more villanous Libel againſt the Authority of Queen and Parliament, which arraigns their Religion, Judgment, and Morals, never yet ſaw the Sun.

The Toleration muſt be damn'd in p. 20. of his Sermon at St. *Paul*'s, as 'indulging Men in the 'moſt mortal Sins, and expoſing the Flock of Chriſt 'to the Corruptions of Hereſy and Schiſm, the 'Impoſtures of falſe Apoſtles, and the Deceit and 'Malice of Wolves in Sheeps Clothing. King *William* muſt be arraign'd in p. 13. of his *Derby* Sermon, 'as abuſing his Power, proſtituting the Vice'gerency of God to execrable Purpoſes, betraying 'his ſacred Truſt and Commiſſion, and violating 'his Faith and Honour, for authorizing what the Doctor calls Schiſmaticks, under which Name he includes all Diſſenters p. 21. of his Anſwer.

This

This fastens the same Reproach upon her Majesty and her present Parliament, and upon all the moderate Bishops, Clergy, and Laiety of the Church of *England*, who are for maintaining the Toleration; and yet this Man has the Assurance to say, that he never intended to cast any invidious Reflexion upon the Indulgence granted by Law.

He says, p. 23. 'That the Dissenters are guilty 'of Schism and Faction, which are Things of im- 'pudent and encroaching Natures; and therefore 'are to be treated like growing Mischiefs, or infe- 'ctious Plagues, kept at a Distance, lest their dead- 'ly Contagion spread; that our superior Pastors 'should thunder out their Ecclesiastical Anathema's 'against them, and insolently defies any Power 'upon Earth to reverse such Sentences; and in p. '19. of his Sermon, he commends Queen *Elizabeth* 'for utterly suppressing them, and complains that 'her Successor King *James* did not do the like: Yet this Man, if we believe him, has a mighty Tenderness towards Consciences truly scrupulous, and does not reflect upon those Persons that are entitl'd to the Toleration.

He says, in the Dedication of his Sermon at St. *Paul's*, 'That Truth is oppress'd by Number and 'Noise, and rebellious Appeals made to the Peo- 'ple, *&c.* which are the fashionable Methods now 'made use of to overbear and silence our Church; 'that our Constitution is in Danger, when so vi- 'gorously attack'd from without, and so lazily de- 'fended from within; and that the Persons of 'those who would defend the Church and State, 'are in Hazard. Serm. p. 2. That the Church of '*England*, like that of *Corinth*, has her holy Com- 'munion rent, *&c.* her Altars and Sacraments pro- 'stituted to Hypocrites, Deists, Socinians, and 'Atheists, I wish I could not say without Discou- 'ragement, but I am sure without Impunity,---- 'not only by our profess'd Enemies, but which is 'worse, by our pretended Friends and false Bre- 'thren. P. 13. That false Brethren do not singly, 'and in private spread their Poyson, but what's la- 'mentable to be spoken, are suffer'd to combine 'into Bodies and Seminaries, wherein Atheism, 'Tritheism, Socinianism, with all the hellish Prin- 'ciples of Fanaticism, Regicide, and Anarchy are 'openly profess'd and taught, to corrupt and de- 'bauch the Youth of the Nation in all Parts of it, 'down to Posterity, *to the present Reproach, and fu- 'ture Extirpation of our Laws and Religion.* P. 16. 'That such is the hard Fortune of the Church, 'that her worst Adversaries must be let into her 'Bowels,--- that *her Walls and Inclosures are pull'd 'down, and a high Road made in upon her Communion, 'and this pure Spouse of Christ is prostituted to more A- 'dulterers, than the Scarlet Whore in the Revelati- 'ons.* P. 17. That what could not be gain'd 'by Comprehension and Toleration, must be 'brought about by *Moderation and Occasional Con- 'formity*, and that the false Brethren *crucify the 'Church*, as the *Jews* did our Saviour, betwixt 'Thieves. P. 18. he insinuates, that false Bre- 'thren are entrusted with the *Guardianship of our 'Church and Crown.* P. 19. That they have under- 'min'd the Foundations of the Church, and en- 'danger the Government, *by filling it with its pro- 'fess'd Enemies*; and now are we in *no Danger* un- 'der these deplorable Circumstances? Must we 'lull our selves under this sad Repose, and in such 'a stupid lethargick Security *embrace our Ruin? I 'pray God we may be out of Danger; but we may re- 'member the King's Person was voted to be so at the 'same Time that his Murderers were conspiring his 'Death.*

Now, since he says, that all those Charges are flagrant and undeniable, was there ever a more malicious Libel writ against the Administration of any Prince in the World? Yet if we will believe the Doctor, 'he has no where suggested or asser- 'ted, that the Church of *England* is in a Condi- 'tion of great Peril and Adversity under her Ma- 'jesty's Administration, nor charg'd her Majesty, 'and those in Authority under her both in Church 'and State, with a general Male-Administration.

Had the Doctor been Master of the least Modesty or Sincerity, he would never have put in a Defence to the Articles of the Commons, so notoriously false and trifling, and much less have suffer'd it to be publish'd to the World before-hand, to arraign the publick Justice of the Nation, as if the Commons of *Great Britain* were capable of advancing Slanders, instead of Matters of Fact, from Sermons that are in every one's Hand; but there's a Witchcraft in Malice and Faction, which inchants those possess'd by them. Thus, *Roger*, I have given you my Opinion of that seditious Libel, which is so industriously handed about by the Party, to wound us, like Pestilence, in the Dark. After all, the worst I wish the Doctor, is, that before it be too late, he may break off his Sins by Repentance, acknowledge himself to be guilty, promise a Reformation, and entitle himself to the Mercy of our Legislature, which he has so unjustly arraign'd and provok'd.

---

## Advertisements.


On Monday next will be publish'd,

☞ The Criterion, or Touchstone by which to judge of the Principles of High and Low Church. In a Letter to a Friend. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noster-Row. Price 1d.

On Monday next will be publish'd,

☞ Reflexions on Dr. Sacheverell's Answer to the Articles of Impeachment exhibited against him by the Honourable House of Commons, Paragraph by Paragraph. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noster-Row. Price 6d.

Just publish'd,

☞ Plutarch's Lives of all the most illustrious Greeks and Romans, with their Comparisons abridg'd, with a chronological Table, and an exact Map of the ancient Empires of Greece and Rome. Printed for Tho. Bullock, at the Rose and Crown on Snow-hill near Holborn-bridge, and sold by him, and by B. Bragge in Pater-Noster-Row. Price bound 5 s.

☞ Over the Passage going into the Queen's-Arms-Tavern on Ludgate-hill, is lately open'd a new Dispensary by a Society of Physicians, who have provided a secret Cabinet of the best Medicines adapted to all Diseases, as particularly specify'd by their printed Bills, not deliver'd in the Streets, like Pretenders, who boast of performing Cures they never understood the Causes of, but distributed to every dwelling House, to inform the Publick of their Intentions; for whose Satisfaction and Benefit they have settl'd the Prizes of their Advice and Medicines in each Case, that all House-keepers and others may know their Charges beforehand.

☞ TINCTURA CÆLESTIS. The celebrated Medicine of the Age for many Years past, as an effectual Remedy in most chronical Diseases, to which most part of this Nation can give ample Testimony, but most particularly in the Stone of the Reins and Bladder, (in which its Virtues have been lately signaliz'd) in the Gout, Rheumatism, and all Joint Pains, Dropsy, Scurvy, Obstruction of the Stomach, Liver, Spleen, Mesentary, and other Bowels, whereby Concoction is hinder'd, and infinite Diseases are propagated, relieving also such as are afflicted with Vapours, and Fumes arising to the Head, which being fix'd thereto, cause Headach, Dizziness, Epilepsy, Appoplexy, and other dangerous and deplorable Diseases. It is prepar'd by the Author, at the Golden Head in Blue Ball Court in Salisbury-Square in Fleet-street; and sold at 1 s. and 2 s. 6 d. the Bottles, and Directions how to use it.

☞ Ruptures and Swellings in the Navel or Groin, in Men, Women, and Children, from their Birth to 60 Years of Age, cur'd; and Trusses of all Sorts, according to the Nature of the Rupture, made by Andrew Boyd, over against the Black-Fryar in Water-Lane, Black-Fryars; where he, and his late Father-in-Law, Mr. Smith, have practis'd above 40 Years, besides Experience in Scotland; but could never be prevail'd on to publish in this Manner 'till now, that so many Pretenders set up who abuse Patients, and pretend to make Spring-Trusses they know nothing of; the said Mr. Smith having taught his Art of curing Ruptures, and making Spring-Trusses, to none but his said Son-in-Law, Mr. Boyd, who makes those Spring-Trusses so, as they suit the Motion of the Body, either riding on Horse-back, or in a Coach, or at any Manner of Exercise, as the Patient pleases, who may screw them up more or less, by Screws in the Pad, as Occasion requires; the like of which no Man makes but himself.



*LONDON*, Printed: And sold by *B. Bragge* in *Pater-Noster-Row*. 1709.